

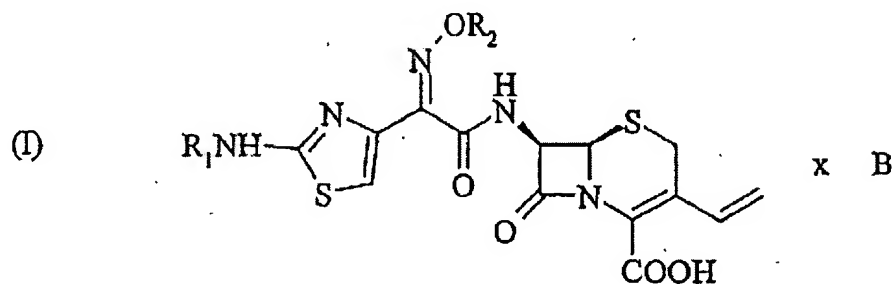
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ A salt of as set forth in formula (I)

wherein



- R_1 is hydrogen or an amino-protecting group, selected from C_1 - C_6 acyl group optionally substituted with one or more chlorine or fluorine atoms, an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups;
- R_2 is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;
- B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines; a solvate[[s]] or an adduct[[s]] thereof, excluding tributylamine, wherein said adduct is a complex of said salt and a compound represented as H-Z, wherein
- H is hydrogen; and
- Z is selected from -Cl, -S-mercaptobenzothiazolyl, -O-P⁺(Ph)₃Cl⁻,

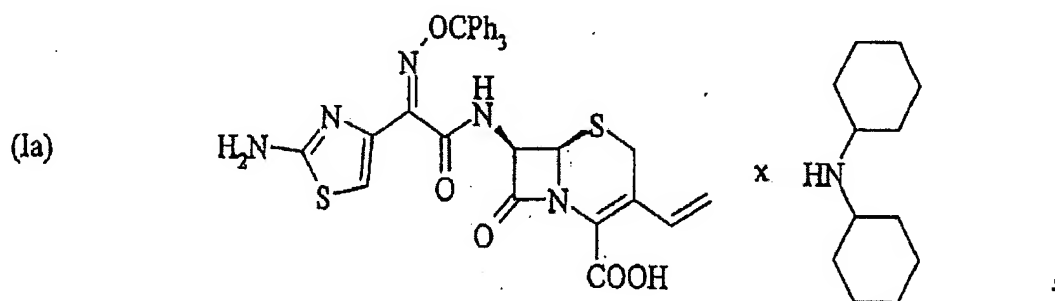
-O-P(S)(OEt)₂, -O-P(O)(OEt)₂, -O-SO₂Me, -O-SO₂Ph, -O-SO₂-pTol, -O-COtBu,
-O-C(O)OEt, -O-benzotriazol-1-yl, -S-(2-methyl-thiadiazol-5-yl) and
-O-CH=N⁺(CH₃)₂Cl⁻ or benzotriazol-1-yl-3-oxide.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₁ is a formyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, or trityl group.
3. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₂ is a tert-butyl, p-methoxybenzyl, 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl, benzhydryl, bis(p-methoxyphenyl)methyl and trityl group.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₁ is hydrogen and R₂ is trityl.
5. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 1 in which B is a primary amine selected from cyclohexylamine, 2-ethylhexylamine, benzylamine, α-methylbenzylamine and tert-octylamine.
6. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 1 in which B is a secondary amine selected from diethylamine, morpholine, dicyclohexylamine, N,N-methylbenzylamine or N, N¹-dibenzylethylenediamine.
7. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 6 wherein B is dicyclohexylamine.
8. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is a tertiary amine selected from triethylamine, ~~tributylamine~~, triisooctylamine, ethyldiisopropylamine, N-methylmorpholine, pyridine, 2,6-lutidine or quinoline.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine.

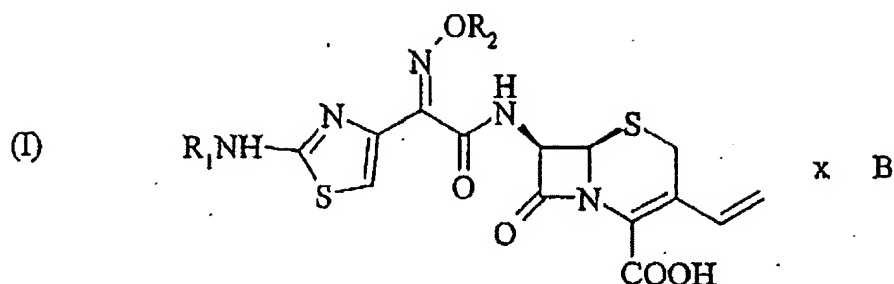
10. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN) or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).

11. (Currently amended) ~~Salts~~ The salt of claim 13, wherein said salt is set forth in formula (Ia)



12. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~producing synthesizing~~ cefdinir, comprising the step of providing deprotecting a salt of claim 1; ~~and removing the hydroxy-protecting R₂ group; wherein when R₄ is not hydrogen the amino-protecting R₄ group is removed from the salt.~~

13. (New) A salt as set forth in formula (I)



wherein

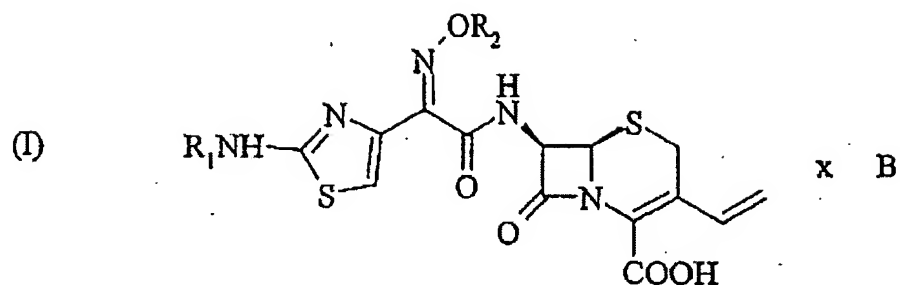
R₁ is R₁ is a formyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, or trityl group:

R₂ is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;

B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines; a solvate or an adduct thereof.

14. (New) A method of synthesizing cefdinir, comprising the step of deprotecting the salt of claim 13.

15. (New) A salt as set forth in formula (I)



wherein

- R_1 is an amino-protecting group, selected from an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups;
- R_2 is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups; and
- B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines; a solvate or an adduct thereof, wherein said adduct is a complex of said salt and a compound represented as H-Z, wherein H is hydrogen; and
- Z is selected from -Cl, -S-mercaptobenzothiazolyl, $-O-P^+(Ph)_3Cl^-$, $-O-P(S)(OEt)_2$, $-O-P(O)(OEt)_2$, $-O-SO_2Me$, $-O-SO_2Ph$, $-O-SO_2-pTol$, $-O-COtBu$, $-O-C(O)OEt$, -O-benzotriazol-1-yl, -S-(2-methyl-thiadiazol-5-yl) and $-O-CH=N^+(CH_3)_2Cl^-$ or benzotriazol-1-yl-3-oxide.

16. (New) The adduct of claim 15.

17. (New) The salt of claim 15.